

Piper Farm, House
Antietam National Battlefield
Sharpsburg Vicinity
Washington County
Maryland

HABS NO. MD-946

HA135
MD,
22-SHARP.V,
18-

PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

PIPER FARM, HOUSE

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Location: Antietam National Battlefield Park, south of "Bloody Lane", Sharpsburg Vicinity, Washington County, Maryland

Significance: The house is significant both due to its relationship to the Battle of Antietam and its status as a structure typical for the time and region.

Description: The Piper house is typical of houses in this region and reveals the influence of "German" architecture through to its two-story frame, side-gabled roof, two entries, and L shape. This three-bay structure has a low foundation of random course field stone. Three separate shed-roofed porches are attached to the house. The first extends along the west front elevation. The other two shade the north and south faces of the wing. Three small interior brick chimneys protrude from the roof, two from the kitchen wing and one from the west wall of the original section. The nine-room interior is in poor condition.

The large stone and frame bank barn is also typical to this period and region. The original southern end is constructed with a heavy, hewn timber frame resting on one-story stone walls. The upper level is covered by unpainted, wide boards, fastened vertically to the frame with wrought nails. The west portion of the stone wall has two narrow ventilating slits built into the masonry. The east wall beneath the overhanging loft has seven double "Dutch" doors and five windows. Five large, picturesque roof ventilators were added in 1914.

History: The main section of the farmhouse was built prior to the Civil, ca 1820. Ca. 1898, the first floor of one wing was added with the second floor completed in 1912. In 1974 the porch and porch foundation were rebuilt and minor repairs were done to the chimney. The barn was also built ca. 1820. In 1914, a wooden addition was made and the original wood shingle roof was replaced by raised-seam tin. In 1974, bad timbers and boards were replaced and the exterior was whitewashed.

The houses proximity to "Bloody Lane" gives it particular historical significance. Bloody Lane was known as the Sunken Road prior to the Civil War. The road bed was worn down to depths ranging

from one to four feet. The road was thus an important line of confederate defense during the battle. Many lost their lives when confederates were caught in the lane by Federal cross fire.

Sources: Antietam National Battlefield Site, National Register of Historic Places nomination form, 1981

Historian: Martha Wagner
HABS
1991

ADDENDUM TO:
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Sharpsburg vicinity
Washington County
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